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APPLICATION NO.

FILING DATE

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

CONFIRMATION NO.

10/660,018

09/10/2003

Frank Stephen Schroeder

.5889

7590
Frank Stephen Schroeder
15124 Painecewood LN
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

04/06/2007

EXAMINER

BRINSON, PATRICK F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

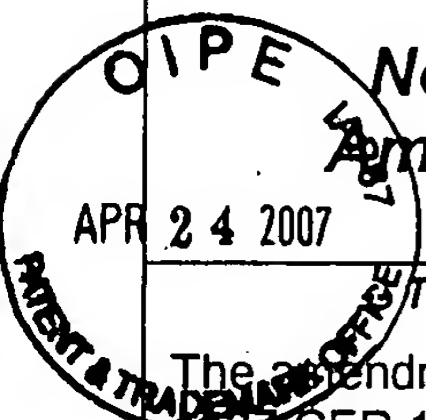
30 DAYS

04/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.



**Notice of Non-Compliant
Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)**

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10660018		
Examiner	Art Unit	
Patrick Brinson	3754	

The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

The amendment document filed on 10/19/05 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 or 1.4. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following item(s) is required.

THE FOLLOWING MARKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

- ☐ 1. Amendments to the specification:
 - ☐ A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
 - ☐ B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
 - ☐ C. Other _____.
- ☐ 2. Abstract:
 - ☐ A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
 - ☐ B. Other _____.
- ☐ 3. Amendments to the drawings:
 - ☒ A. The drawings are not properly identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet," "New Sheet," or "Annotated Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 - ☐ B. The practice of submitting proposed drawing correction has been eliminated. Replacement drawings showing amended figures, without markings, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 are required.
 - ☐ C. Other _____.
- ☐ 4. Amendments to the claims:
 - ☐ A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
 - ☐ B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
 - ☐ C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Previously presented), (New), (Not entered), (Withdrawn) and (Withdrawn-currently amended).
 - ☐ D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
 - ☐ E. Other: _____.
- ☒ 5. Other (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or not signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4):
Amendment is not signed.

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714.

TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

1. Applicant is given **no new time period** if the non-compliant amendment is an after-final amendment, an amendment filed after allowance, or a drawing submission (only). If applicant wishes to resubmit the non-compliant after-final amendment with corrections, the **entire corrected amendment** must be resubmitted.
2. Applicant is given **one month**, or thirty (30) days, whichever is longer, from the mail date of this notice to supply the correction, if the non-compliant amendment is one of the following: a preliminary amendment, a non-final amendment (including a submission for a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114), a supplemental amendment filed within a suspension period under 37 CFR 1.103(a) or (c), and an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action. If any of above boxes 1. to 4. are checked, the correction required is only the **corrected section** of the non-compliant amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Extensions of time are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a) only if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action.

Failure to timely respond to this notice will result in:

Abandonment of the application if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action; or

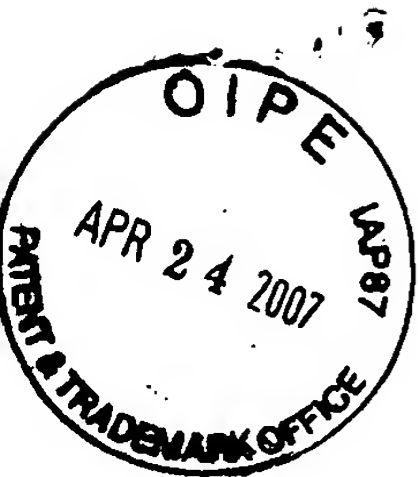
Non-entry of the amendment if the non-compliant amendment is a preliminary amendment or supplemental amendment.

Tracie Hargrove

Legal Instruments Examiner (LIE), if applicable

571-272-4354

Telephone No.



15124 Princewood Ln.
Land O'Lakes, FL 34638
Phone: (813) 996-7676
Fax: (813) 996-7493
Email: frankly@tampabay.rr.com

October 19, 2005 (resubmitted 4/17/07)

Attn: Patrick F. Brinson, Examiner

Reference: Application No. 10/660,018 Applicant: Schroeder, Frank Stephen Art Unit: 3754

Subject: Claim rejections – 35 USC / 102

REMARKS

The Ransom patent PCT WO 01/94820 describes an auxiliary venting device inserted between two lengths of pipe. Schroeder's system describes a means of actually flanging the ends of the pipe.

Ransom (page 6) "...a length of rigid pipeline 20 having a conventional flange connection 22 at either end".

Schroeder "...a pipe having a pair of ends."

Ransom's pipe already has a flanged connection on the pipe and per his Fig. 1 drawing the flange connections are actually Weld Neck flanges. Schroeder has a pipe with a plain end and the Schroeder device actually creates the flange connection of the pipe.

Ransom (page 6): "Each of the connector devices 24 comprises a length of conduit 28 having a flange connection 30 at each end..."

Schroeder: "a rotating back up flange is placed over an end of said pipe; a socket stub end placed on the said end of said pipe and affixed to said pipe;"

Ransom's 28 is not a socket stub end but a length of conduit. Ransom's 30 is not a rotating back up flange but a fixed slip-on flange. Ransom has no stub ends in his device. Ransom has no back up flanges. All of Ransom's flanges are fixed and non-rotating. The rotating back up flange and socket stub end are crucial to the Schroeder flanging system. Ransom's device is placed beyond the flanged end of the original pipe (20, 22). Schroeder's system connects directly onto the end of the original pipe and forms the original flanged end.

Ransom (page 10): "In use of the invention for the purpose of installing a liner in a subsea pipeline, one of the devices 24 is fitted to each end of the length of pipeline which is to be lined. The U-shaped liner is pulled through the pipeline from one end thereof, trimmed to length and its ends secured and sealed to the outer ends of the devices 24 by any suitable means (as known in the art)."

Schroeder: "a liner, received within said pipe, having a liner flare extending radially outward and positioned in overlapping relation with said socket stub end face forming a gasket."

Ransom's liner must be pulled through the original pipe and also through the auxiliary venting device attached to the original pipe. Schroeder's system is the actual flange on the original pipe and not an auxiliary device placed beyond the original pipe for the purpose of venting.

Schroeder's pipe already has a liner in place before attaching the socket stub end and rotating back up flange and is not a means of retrofitting an existing piping system.

Ransom (page 6): "The fluid outlet passage 40 communicates with the annular volume defined by the groove 36 and, via the apertures 32, with the interior of the conduit 34."

Schroeder: "said socket stub end having at least one predetermined vent hole having an inlet opening located behind said socket and an outlet opening located behind said stub end."

Ransom's venting outlet lies in the center of the conduit of his devise. Schroeder's venting outlet lies in the socket stub end at the flange. Ransom does not have vent openings in the ends of his pipe. Schroeder's venting is performed at the flange connection of the original pipe.

Venting lined pipe is a well known procedure discussed in Davies, Press and Walko. All other venting systems are installed in the factory at the time the original pipe was manufactured. Schroeder's system is for fabricating a pre-lined pipe in the field (called a field flare system in the industry) and allowing the pipe length to have a venting outlet when none can be made available due to the fact that the liner is already in the pipe at the time the ends are fabricated with flanges.

Ransom's system has no relationship to the Schroeder claim. Ransom is about venting the pipe prior to inserting the plastic lining. Schroeder is about venting the flange connection of a lined pipe. All previous claims: ie Davies, Press, Walko were about venting the pipe. Only Schroeder addresses venting the pipe through a rotating flange stub end connection. No other claimant has ever proposed a rotating flange stub end system for fabricating a plastic lined pipe, let alone providing for a venting system in such a connection.



Frank S. Schroeder